

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 732

H.P. 538

House of Representatives, February 14, 2003

An Act To Change Child-to-staff Ratios in Child Care Centers

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative DUPREY of Hampden.
Cosponsored by Senator SAWYER of Penobscot and
Representatives: BLANCHETTE of Bangor, CROSTHWAITE of Ellsworth, LEDWIN of
Holden, MARLEY of Portland.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §8302-A, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2001, c.
645, §7, is further amended to read:

6 **1. Rules for child care facilities.** Rules for child care
facilities must include, but are not limited to, rules pertaining
8 to the following:

10 A. ~~Child-to-staff~~ Child-to-staff ratios except as provided
in section 8308;

12 B. The health and safety of the children and staff,
14 including training on communicable diseases;

16 C. Water for drinking and cooking;

18 D. Wastewater;

20 E. Rabies vaccinations for pets;

22 F. The quality of the program provided;

24 G. The age, criminal record and personal history of the
26 provider of care for children and staff members;

28 H. The administration of medication; and

30 I. Licensing procedures.

32 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical
rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A 2-A.

34 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §8308** is enacted to read:

36 **§8308. Child-to-staff ratios for child care centers**

38 **1. Purpose.** This section establishes minimum
40 child-to-staff ratios for child care centers.

42 **2. Minimum child-to-staff ratios.** The minimum
44 child-to-staff ratios are:

46 A. For children 6 weeks to one year of age: one staff
person for every 4 children, with a group size limit of 8;

48 B. For children one year to 2 years of age: one staff
person for every 5 children, with a group size limit of 10;

50 C. For children 2 years to 3 years of age: one staff person
for every 7 children, with a group size limit of 21;

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D. For children 3 years to 4 years of age: one staff person for every 10 children if the staff person is qualified as a group leader and one staff person for every 8 children if the staff person is not qualified as a group leader, with a group size limit of 3 times the limit on the number of children;

E. For children 4 years to 6 years of age: one staff person for every 10 children, with a group size limit of 30; and

F. For children over 6 years of age: one staff person for every 13 children, with no group size limit.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes child-to-staff ratios in child care centers.